

REMARKS

Initially, applicants would like to thank Examiner Blackman for granting an interview and for her time spent in the interview.

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18, 19, 22-25, 30, 32, and 33.

Claims 1-3, 8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29, 31, 34 and 35 were rejected as anticipated by BARAK et al. EP 0922986. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended and includes an illumination system having plural light emitting elements that alternately emit in time a first linearly polarized light beam from a first one of the light emitting elements and a second linearly polarized light beam from a second one of the light emitting elements having directions of polarization that differ by 90°. Independent claim 2 is similarly amended.

Independent claim 27 is amended to recite an illumination means having plural light emitting elements for alternately directing in time a P-polarized light beam from a first one of the plural light emitting elements and an S-polarized light beam from a second one of the plural light-emitting elements to a polarization beam splitter. Independent claim 34 includes this same limitation of claim 27.

As pointed out at the interview, the BARAK reference teaches a single light source that emits a single light beam. BARAK does not disclose or suggest alternately emitting in time first and second linearly polarized light beams from respective first and second light emitting elements as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Similarly, the specification of BARAK fails to disclose or suggest an illumination means having plural light emitting elements for alternately directing in time a P-polarized light beam from a first element and an S-polarized light beam from a second element as recited in claims 27 and 34.

Specifically, Figure 1 of BARAK, for example, shows a non-polarized light source 10, such as an arc lamp based illuminator, which directs a single beam of light onto a polarizing beam splitter/combiner 12. The only polarized light beams of BARAK are downstream of the polarizing beam splitter 12. These light beams are simultaneously reflected from color splitters 22 and 24 and combined by the polarizing beam splitter/combiner 12. The light beams are then output as a combined modulated light beam to an objective lens 70. BARAK does not teach or suggest alternately emitting in time polarized light beams.

Claims 3, 8, 14-17, 20, 21, 26, 29, 31, and 35 depend from one of claims 1, 2, 27, and 34 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over BARAK.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 are rejected as anticipated by TAKIGUCHI et al. JP 2000-244211. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, claim 1 is amended to recite an illumination system having plural light emitting elements for alternately emitting in time a first linearly polarized light beam from a first one of said light emitting elements and a second linearly polarized light beam from a second one of said light emitting elements having directions of polarization that differ by 90°.

As set forth at the interview, the TAKIGUCHI reference teaches an illumination system that simultaneously emits red light from a first light source 101, green light from a second light source 102 and blue light from a third light source 103. This reference does not teach plural light emitting elements that alternately emit light in time as recited in claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over TAKIGUCHI et al.

Claims 1-3 and 27 are rejected as anticipated by LEE 6,536,902. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites an illumination system having plural light emitting elements for alternately emitting in time a first linearly polarized light beam from a first light emitting element and a second linearly polarized light beam from

a second light emitting element having directions of polarization that differ by 90°. Claims 2 and 27 include similar limitations.

As pointed out at the interview, LEE teaches a single light source (see element 36 of Figure 6) that emits a single light beam. LEE does not disclose or teach an illumination system having plural light emitting elements for alternately emitting in time first and second linearly polarized light beams as recited.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection cannot be maintained.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, and 31 are rejected as unpatentable over TAKIGUCHI et al. in view of LEE. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 2 includes an illumination system having plural light emitting elements for alternately emitting in time first and second linearly polarized light beams.

As set forth above, neither TAKIGUCHI nor LEE teach or suggest alternately emitting in time plural polarized light beams as recited in claim 2.

Claim 27 recites similar limitations to that of claim 2. Accordingly, the proposed combination of references would not render obvious claims 2 and 27 and the claims that depend therefrom.

As pointed out at the interview, page 26, lines 11-13 of the present application in conjunction with Figures 8 and 9, for example, disclose linearly polarized light source 1011 having

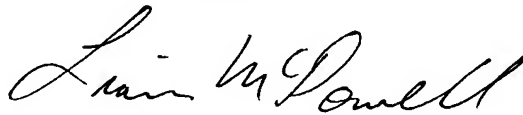
plural light emitting elements that alternate in time between emitting linearly polarized light beams (P-polarized light beams and S-polarized light beams). None of the cited references disclose or suggest that a light source alternates in time between emitting linearly polarized light beams.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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